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Trypetid Galls and *Eurosta elsa* n. sp.

(With Plate X.)

BY E. DAECKE.

In an interesting paper in *Psyche*, Vol. XIV, No. 4, page 71, the late Millett T. Thompson described the galls of *Eurosta reticulata* Snow and *Eutrecta sparsa* Wied., both on the root of golden-rod, while *Oedaspis polita* Loew, *Oedaspis atra* Loew and *Eurosta solidaginis* Fitch have been previously recorded as gall-makers on golden-rod.

During the summer of 1906 I had the good fortune of locating the galls of a golden-rod-loving Trypetid not hitherto recorded.

It was in September and golden-rods were in full bloom when I took a stroll with my little niece through a sparsely wooded section near Richmond Hill, L. I. As natural as it is for a collector to take insects it is for a little girl to pick flowers. Elsa picked golden-rods, but alas! out came a plant with its roots which the loose, sandy soil could not hold—and a new story was told.

There were one to three galls on the root of every plant examined, of fleshy, potato-like consistency, with a chamber

scarcely wider than the puparium and leading out toward the upper end; the aperture of exit softly drawn together. Length, 20-25 mm.; width, 10-12 mm.

Unfortunately, all galls collected showed that the insects had but recently emerged. Obviously they were unknown Trypetid galls of a large species which emerged in early September, and looking up the list of known life histories of the local species, everything pointed toward *Eurosta comma* Wied.

To verify this I had to wait one year, and was not disappointed in finding them at the same place in August, 1907, and ready to emerge. In the meantime I betook myself to Lucaston, N. J., where I always collected *E. comma* in September. After a little search I located the galls and was surprised to find them on *Solidago rugosa* Mill., while those from Richmond Hill, L. I., were taken on *Solidago juncea* Ait.

A difference in the host-plant might mean a difference in the species, hence the emerging of these flies was awaited with considerable interest. Flies from both cages began to emerge September 7 and continued until October 8. The flies reared from *Solidago juncea* proved to be the true form of *Eurosta comma* Wied. (see plate), but those from *Solidago rugosa* taken at Richmond Hill, L. I., differed uniformly from this species and proved to be a form new to science.

***Eurosta elsa* n sp.**

Front sparingly beset with minute yellowish hair, the bristles are brownish. The upper surface of thorax clay-yellowish pollinose with short pile of same color. Scutellum brownish with two bristles. Abdomen reddish-brown with short blackish pile. Ovipositor conical, attenuated near apex, dark brown with black pile, transversely with fine ridges. Femora, middle and hind tibiae reddish-brown; front tibiae and all tarsi pale brownish yellow. Wings broad and rounded, dark brown with a number of small semi-transparent dots scattered over the surface. The extreme tip of wing with a narrow hyaline border and some hyaline indication at the end of sixth vein. A small triangular hyaline spot on the anterior margin beyond the stigma rarely exceeding the second longitudinal vein.

This species resembles *E. comma* Wied. very closely. It can be readily distinguished, however, in both sexes by the trian-

gular hyaline spot on the anterior margin of the wing. The comma mark by which Wiedemann named his species is missing on *E. elsa*, that is, the hyaline portion of triangle beyond the comma is infuscated on *E. elsa*. The ovipositor shows considerable variation in both species, but in two respects the differences are permanent. The ovipositor of *E. comma* is smooth and uniformly conical, that of *Eurosta elsa* is more or less attenuated near apex and finely ridged transversely.

Described from two males and five females. One male was taken near Baltimore, Md., October 1, 1899, all the others were reared from galls collected at Richmond Hill, N. Y., in October, 1907, by Miss Elsa Schwensen and myself.

The figure of upper left-hand corner of Plate X shows the galls of *Eurosta comma* on the root of *Solidago rugosa* Mill. The rest of the plate pictures *Solidago juncea* with the galls of *Eurosta elsa*. Figures on plate all about half size.

Notes on some Heliothid Moths.

By T. D. A. COCKERELL.

1. *Rhododipsa masoni* Smith.

Some years ago my wife collected specimens of this species at Boulder, Colorado, always on flowers of *Gaillardia aristata*. The moth rests on the flowers so that the red wings are on the red disc, and the yellow thorax is over the yellow rays, with the result that although the insect is brightly colored, it becomes practically invisible. I afterwards found that this habit was known to Mr. J. Mason, of Denver, and Professor Gillette. The type was, I believe, discovered through the picking of a *Gaillardia* flower.

2. *Lygranthoecia brevis* Grote.

At Boulder, on August 3, I noticed that this species rests upon the disc of *Helianthus lenticularis*, and is admirably protected in this position by its color. It seems to me very close to *R. masoni*, and I had taken it for a new form of *Rhododipsa*, but Dr. Dyar assures me that it is Grote's *brevis*. Hol-